"Fear not, Abram, I am thy shield and thy exceeding great reward."

Arlington Heights
Virginia Thursday July 25th

Dear Parents Brothers & Sisters
I Rec'd Your Letter of 20th
Yesterday all so the papers
I was glad two here from
You was Started from Camp Douglas
on Monday Morning and went across
the long Bridge when we got
across the bridge from George Town
the long and chain bridge and ferry boats
was full of retreating Soldiers from the
battle fields the roads from the bridge
was so full of Soldiers that hours
Rig't could not get Every further
then One of the Boys fell and it
commenced to rain and those were
ordered two halt and we all lost
for the woods that was and Encampment
that once and that was brave houses but
it rained so that they did more good

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it rain all night and we commenced two work and built our bow houses and built big fires and spread our blankets over the top of the roof and laid a couple of the blankets on the grounds and then put a lot of wood on the fire and fire of our hand down on wet blankets and the rain a pouring on us and our clothes went through two the skin and went two sleep we had been two sleep about two or three hours when the Capt come and call us and told us that we would have two get up and go out and see what had become of Company A and B we see that they had been out all night and they had not heard nothing about them and we had Eighteen more had two get up it was as dark as pitch and it rain us off it was not agoing two stop and get our rifels

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and told them and then reported down to the yard house and they told me that Confederate Gen. S[illegible] was over to Lockrin and then went and told Joe and Jared Jackson's house here is booked to the Penn that killed Edwards and was shot and guarded the House & premises till morning to know what was was when Pete Lent — wounded let him Joe and git a pail of water and then he wanted to Joe and git me up and split wood and was wounded let him give that — I look hard not to let a man git a pail of water on his own premises but it I did not look as bad as to see the poor soldiers that had been in the fight at Bulls run coming home home

with their arms broken and arms both off and limping on one leg and some with one leg and their shoulders all torn off some with one gun and some with two their was Companys of men and not ten that belong two the same Company they was all scattered and you could see a Hundred men two gether and about every man had different uniform from the other drums with their heads out Men that could hardly walk some with nothing but their pants and shirts on baggied dough gods all smuck up and horses wounded and could hardly goe some of the Staged on officers Cloath on and big swords hung on their sides I had my haversack full of bread crackers and meat and I threw it all away two the men some of them said that they had that they have nothing for two days Secretary Cameron give orders not two let any man pass over the bridge once over Rip Raps all Hanged around the bridge so two let none man pass

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